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Serial No. 10/018,046

In the Claims

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

- 3. (Currently amended) The prosthesis of claim-8 7 wherein:
- the positioner comprises a piston with outwardly directed ring flanges, which piston is said piston being displacably arranged in a cylinder attached to the leg prosthesis; and
- -the positioning means comprises a ring wall projecting inwardly from the cylinder, which wall divides said wall dividing the space between the ring flanges of the piston into two chambers, and a two-way valve, which in an opened position provides flow of the a medium existing in the chambers between said chambers and in a closed position prevents such flow.
- 4. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 3 wherein the elongate element extends through a central axial channel in the piston and through a central axial passage in the resilient element and is connected, via a washer of rigid material, to that end of the resilient element, which is opposite the end which bears on the piston.
- 5. (Previously presented) The prosthesis according to any of the preceding claims wherein the elongate element is made of a flexible material.
- 6. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 5 wherein the elongate element is made of a material selected from the group consisting of cord, wire, and a belt of a material with little extensibility.

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7. (Previously presented) A leg prosthesis having a foot pivotally connected to the leg prosthesis at a pivoting joint, said foot and leg prosthesis being relatively pivotally adjustable to facilitate walking on downwardly-angled surfaces comprising:

-means for step-less adjusting of the foot relative to the leg prosthesis such that, in an adjusted position, the foot is at a fixed angle relative to the leg prosthesis, the means for step-less adjusting comprising:

-a positioner slidably positionable with respect to the leg prosthesis, said positioner acting against the foot and leg prosthesis to provide the relative pivoting adjustment; and

-means for slideably positioning the positioner to a fixed position with respect to the leg prosthesis; and

-means for limiting pivoting movement of the foot relative to the leg prosthesis in the adjusted position during walking, the means for limiting pivoting movement comprising:

-a resilient element having a first end connected to the foot by an elongate element; and

-the positioner slidably positions the resilient element to a fixed position with respect to the leg prosthesis such that resilient element spring force resists relative pivoting movement of the foot and leg prosthesis.

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- 9. (Previously presented) A prosthesis comprising:
- -a leg element;
- -a foot element pivotally joined to the leg element at a pivoting joint and having front and rear ends;
- -a cylinder at least partially within the foot element secured in fixed-position relationship to the leg element;
- -a position-adjustable resilient element positionable within the cylinder to a fixed position corresponding to a selected position of the foot element relative to the leg element; and
- -a linkage joining the resilient element to the foot element such that downward pivoting movement of the foot element front end within a walking range compresses the resilient element and the resilient element limits said downward pivoting movement.
- 10. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 9 further comprising a positioner positionable within the cylinder to a selected position, the resilient element bearing against the positioner to provide position adjustment thereof.

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11. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 10 wherein the positioner comprises:

-a piston positionable within the cylinder having a body and front and rear end walls joined thereto, the body, end walls and cylinder defining a piston space between the piston and cylinder;

-a cylinder wall in sealing relationship with the piston body permitting movement of the piston with respect thereto and separating the piston space into front and rear chambers; and

-a hydraulic medium controllably flowable between the front and rear chambers such that flow of the medium to the front chamber slides the piston rearward in the cylinder and flow of the medium to the rear chamber slides the piston forward in the cylinder and stoppage of medium flow positions the piston in the selected position.

12. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 11 further comprising a valve controlling the medium flow between the front and rear chambers, the valve having an open position permitting medium flow and a closed position preventing medium flow thereby positioning the piston in the selected position.

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13. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 12 wherein:

-a resilient element front end bears against a piston rear end;

-the linkage is an elongate element having a first end joined to the foot element forward of the pivoting joint and a second end joined to a resilient element rear end such that the elongate

element:

-transfers force to the resilient element rear end during downward movement of the foot

front end thereby compressing the resilient element positioned against the piston; and

-transfers resilient element spring force to the foot element when the foot element is

unloaded thereby returning the foot element to the selected position.

14. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 13 further comprising:

-a foot support portion carrying the pivoting joint and secured within the foot element,

said foot support portion having a front surface forward of the pivoting joint;

-a bearing surface along the foot support portion forward of the pivoting joint structured

to support the elongate element bearing thereon, said bearing surface including an elongate

element attachment point on the front surface, a direction-changing portion adapted to change

direction of the elongate element and direct the elongate element from the front surface toward

the resilient element and a bearing portion therebetween; and

-the elongate element bears against the bearing surface between the attachment point and

direction-changing portion.

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15. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 14 wherein the elongate element is

selected from the group consisting of a cord, a wire and a belt.

16. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 14 wherein:

-the piston defines a piston central axial passageway extending therethrough;

-the resilient element defines a central axial passageway extending therethrough aligned

with the piston passageway;

-the elongate element extends within the passageways; and

-a nipple in the resilient element passageway has a first end joined to the elongate element

and a second end bearing against the resilient element rear end.

17. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 16 further comprising:

-a cup-shaped support surface formed in the foot support portion proximate a cylinder

front end; and

-a piston support having a cup-shaped end movably seated in the cup-shaped support

surface and a flat end positioned against the piston front wall when the foot element is unloaded.

Claims 18-25 (Canceled)